



## State of Ohio

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board  
Occupational Therapy Section

### Guidelines for Non-U.S. Educated Applicants for Occupational Therapy Licensure

A non-U.S. educated applicant is a person whose occupational therapy education was obtained in a program not accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

#### Section I: General Information

##### TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

**License by Exam** is for individuals seeking licensing in Ohio who already passed (or are scheduled to sit for) the NBCOT certification examination but do not hold an occupational therapy license in another U.S. state or territory.

**License by Endorsement** is for individuals seeking licensure in Ohio who hold a current, valid license to practice occupational therapy in another U.S. state or territory.

Endorsement applicants must meet all of the same criteria required for licensure by exam. Having a license in another state does not mean that you will automatically qualify to practice in Ohio.

If the wrong application is received by the Board, the applicant will be sent the correct one to complete.

#### Section II: Requirements for Non-U.S. Educated Applicants

##### CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

Pursuant to the Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act, all non-U.S. educated applicants must have an educational background deemed by the Occupational Therapy Section to be substantially equivalent to an occupational therapy program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

All non-U.S. education must be evaluated by a professional evaluating service. Original credential evaluations must be sent directly to the Board from the evaluating organization. Evaluations are required to assist the Section in making a decision regarding the equivalency of the non-U.S. education. Credential evaluations reflect only the findings and conclusions of the evaluator and are not binding upon the Section. The Section will take action on applications only after it has received and reviewed an evaluation of non-U.S. education, in addition to all other required documents.

The following are the organizations approved to conduct credential evaluations for Ohio. Please contact them directly at:

- Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. – <http://www.ece.org>
- International Consultants of Delaware – <http://www.icdeval.com>
- International Credentialing Associates, Inc. – <http://icaworld.com>
- NBCOT – <http://www.nbcot.org>
- World Education Services, Inc. – <http://www.wes.org>

**Note:** In accordance with rule 4755-3-01, an evaluation is not required if an applicant was initially certified by NBCOT on or after January 1, 2004.

## **WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH**

All non-U.S. educated applicants must demonstrate a working knowledge of English by:

1. Obtaining scores of at least 4.5 of the TWE; 50 on the TSE; and 220 on the computer based TOEFL or 560 on the paper based TOEFL; or
2. Obtaining scores on the TOEFL iBT of at least 24 on the writing section; 26 on the speaking section; 18 on the reading comprehension section; 21 on the listening comprehension section; and 89 on the overall examination.

To register for either exam, please visit <http://www.toefl.org>. The Ohio OTPTAT Board's agency code is 9099.

**Note:** In accordance with rule 4755-3-01, proof of passage of the TOEFL exam is not required if an applicant was initially certified by NBCOT on or after January 1, 2004.

### **Section III: Fees**

All fees or costs incurred by an application while gathering information connected with the filing of an application are the responsibility of the applicant.

It is the applicant's responsibility to be aware of and in compliance with current requirements of the Occupational Therapy Section. It will take some applicants as long as one year to gather the required items to complete the application. The completed application will be reviewed based upon the Section's current guidelines.

In accordance with rule 4755-3-01 (I), all applications that remain incomplete one year after the initial application filing date are considered to be abandoned and no further processing shall be undertaken on that application. After that time, a new application and fee will be required to be considered for licensure in Ohio.